

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

April 27, 2007

Message from County Executive Walker

The Reality Tour I took around the county last year spelled out the pending financial crisis of the county over the next five years. The data in our tour came out of presentations made to the bond rating agencies that met with the county in early 2006.

Next week, we will meet with these agencies again and the good news is that our financial situation is much better than a year ago. Labor agreements with our major unions representing 80% of our unionized staff provide modest wage increases while obtaining significant savings in health care and caps on retirement benefits.

Working with the County Board, we also moved to a self-insured plan that will save \$18.7 million through 2009. Next up is a new wellness and disease management program to further drive down health care costs.

We are also looking for relief from our unfunded pension liability through the ability to issue Pension Obligation Bonds. The idea gained support from the Governor and several Milwaukee County lawmakers are drafting legislation to maximize the value of these bonds. Our conservative plan would save \$6.25 million annually over the next 30 years.

While many parts of our financial picture are much better, we still have work to do. Last year, our structural imbalance was nearly \$90 million. For our next budget, we need to cover \$41 million worth of increased costs. As we have in the past, we will rely on an excellent fiscal staff and the support of hard-working departments to balance our 2008 budget.

Scott

Walker Helps Celebrate Concourse E Re-Opening



Continental Airlines
passenger David
Yankunas

Air Tran Airlines
passenger Tracy
Twardowski



Northwest Airlines
passenger Monique
Zore

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker and Supervisor Dan Devine presented three lucky passengers Thursday with prize packages including free airline tickets, donated by the airlines.

The event, which celebrated the completion of the \$2.7 million renovation of Concourse E, was highlighted by surprising the three passengers from the three airlines that use Concourse E; Continental Airlines, Air Tran Airlines, and Northwest Airlines.

Air Tran passenger, Tracy Twardowski, from Antioch, IL, said she prefers to fly out of General Mitchell International Airport because it is "less hassle than O'Hare."

Milwaukee County Detention Center Receives Award



First Lady Jessica Doyle, Detention Center Superintendent Tom Wanta, and County Executive Scott Walker

On Wednesday, County Executive Scott Walker, along with Wisconsin First Lady Jessica Doyle, congratulated Milwaukee County Detention Center Superintendent Tom Wanta and his staff for receiving the 2007 Wisconsin Cares About Kids Award. The award is co-sponsored by the Governor's Office and the State Public Defender's Office.

Mitchell Airport Wins Two Design Awards

Milwaukee County's General Mitchell International Airport won two awards for the design of the Concourse D renovation.

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) honored the project with its "Top Public Works Project" award and the project also was recognized nationally by the APWA with its "Public Works Project of the year in the \$2- \$10 million category."

Walker Supports Sheriff's Summer Parks Plan



Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke held a news conference today at the lakefront to outline his plan to keep Milwaukee County's parks and beaches safe for law-abiding citizens this summer.

County Executive Scott Walker joined Sheriff Clarke at the news conference and applauded the Sheriff's tough stand on crime and the department's emphasis on active and highly-visible patrols of the county's parks and beaches.

Walker Visits UCC Senior Center



Continuing his tour of all 31 Milwaukee County Senior meal sites, County Executive Scott Walker joined seniors at the United Community Center for lunch Thursday. Walker also stopped by the UCC board meeting to thank the board for their exemplary work in addressing the needs of a broad spectrum of Milwaukee County residents.